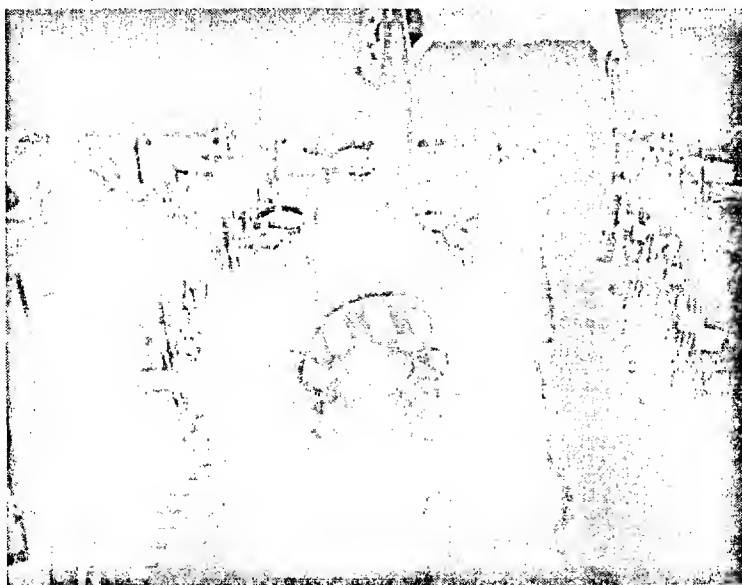


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19 MAR 1973

STOPPING WORLD TERROR— MUST U.S. GO IT ALONE?



—UPI Photo

Final journey for two slain Americans.

**Murder of two U. S. diplomats leaves no doubt:
Americans are now a prime target of terrorists.
Help from other nations? Not likely.**

Reported from
WASHINGTON and BEIRUT

President Nixon is appealing once again to other nations for concerted action against political extortion of the kind attempted when Black September terrorists in the Sudan killed three diplomats—two of them American.

On the basis of past performance, U. S. officials concede, there is little likelihood so far that President Nixon will get the worldwide response to his appeal that he would like.

So far, no other nation except Israel has taken the uncompromising line adopted by the U. S. in dealing with threats of international terrorists.

As the box on the next page shows, West Germany and some other governments have capitulated to terrorists' demands and permitted them to go free in order to prevent killing of hostages and destruction of property.

Most Arab governments have opposed strong measures against Black September out of sympathy with the cause of

Palestinian refugees or fear of the terrorists' appeal among Arab masses.

The President set forth his "hard" policy March 6 at services commemorating U. S. Ambassador Cleo A. Noel, Jr., and outgoing Chargé d'Affaires George C. Moore who were among those kidnaped by terrorists in Khartoum during a farewell reception for Mr. Moore at the Saudi Arabian Embassy.

The two men, along with a Belgian diplomat, were machine-gunned to death when President Nixon rejected terrorist demands for the release of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the convicted killer of Robert F. Kennedy, and King Hussein of Jordan refused to release 70 Palestinian guerrillas from Jordanian jails.

Explaining his decision, President Nixon said:

"All of us would have liked to have saved the lives of these two very brave men, but . . . in the event we had paid international blackmail . . . it would have endangered the lives of hundreds of others. The position of your Govern-

ting to international blackmail or extortion anywhere in the world."

He also urged that "other governments throughout the world, rather than standing aside, should join with us in taking this firm line against extortion and against international blackmail by terrorist groups."

Lack of support. U. S. difficulties in getting this united front were underlined last autumn when Secretary of State William P. Rogers got nowhere in attempts to gain United Nations support for a worldwide convention against terrorism.

Lacking this kind of agreement, some men with experience in this field are wondering if the U. S. will find its diplomatic missions increasingly the targets of Black September terrorism.

They point out that this country, for many years, has been regarded by Palestinian refugees as the main prop of Israel. That feeling, they say, probably has been reinforced in recent months by President Nixon's unflinching assurances of aid to Israel in its struggle for survival.

What some authorities foresee is an intensifying state of virtual war between the world's most powerful nation and a band of perhaps 100 Black September terrorists and their backers.

In that situation, they say, other nations may very well remain on the sidelines—leaving the U. S. to go it alone.

Such a war would have no defined battlefields, no rules or restraints, and no guarantees for the safety of Americans earmarked for kidnaping or assassination. On March 8, Deputy Undersecretary of State William Macomber said:

"I think we're going to lose more people. As long as Governments are lenient with this sort of thing, it will go on."

More protection. The U. S. now is asking Arab Governments to stiffen security measures for American embassies and their personnel—including families—stationed in those countries.

Embassies in "vulnerable areas" also will get the maximum-security measures found now only in a few capitals—among them, the Embassy in Moscow.

Such measures would include additional Marine guards as well as installation of closed-circuit television to help guard entrances.

Directing this effort is a Cabinet committee named by the President. It is chaired by Secretary of State Rogers

A PAGE OF SECRET
SEPTEMBER TERRORISM

1971

Nov. 28, Cairo

Assassination of Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tal. Four terrorists freed for "lack of evidence."

Dec. 15, London

Attempted assassination of the Jordanian Ambassador. Criminals not apprehended.

1972

Feb. 5, Ravenstein

Sabotage of Dutch gas-pumping station, French arrested an Algerian; no others caught.

Feb. 5, Hamburg

Sabotage of an electronics factory making components for sale to Israel. Criminals not caught.

Feb. 6, Brühl, Germany

Murder of 5 Jordanian workers allegedly spying for Israel. Two suspects escaped from Germany.

May 8, Tel Aviv

Belgian airliner with 100 aboard hijacked by four guerrillas, diverted to Tel Aviv's Lod airport. Ransom demand: release of 106 Palestinians held in Israel. Two terrorists killed by Israeli troops, two captured.

Aug. 3, Trieste, Italy

Saboteurs hit oil tanks, partly owned by U. S. firms, and escape.

Aug. 16, Rome

Blast on Israeli airliner. Two suspects, freed on bail, fled Italy.

Sept. 5, Munich

Eleven members of Israeli Olympic team, one policeman slain. Five terrorists killed, three captured and exchanged for hijacked German airliner.

Dec. 28, Bangkok

Israeli Embassy seized. Four terrorists allowed to fly to Cairo after they released six hostages.

1973

Jan. 20, Vienna

Planned seizure of transit camp for Soviet Jewish emigres. Six plotters arrested.

Feb. 9, Amman, Jordan

Planned seizure of Jordanian Prime Minister and other officials. Seventeen sentenced to death—but King Hussein is delaying execution to deter attacks on Jordanian officials abroad.

March 1, Khartoum, Sudan

Murder of American Ambassador Cleo A. Noel, Jr., outgoing American Chargé d'Affaires George C. Moore and Belgian Chargé Guy Eid. Eight guerrillas held by Sudan for murder trial.

projects. And most of the aid was funneled through Al Fatah, the top agency among Palestinians.

This "moderate" group is headed by Yassir Arafat—also chairman of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, an "umbrella" agency representing most of the Palestinian groups.

Coming into the clear is evidence of what Western and Israeli analysts have suspected—that Black September, far from operating on its own, is the terror arm of Al Fatah and, through Yassir Arafat, the PLO.

U. S. diplomats reported that the Sudan terrorists used vehicles belonging to the PLO—and their leader was a radio announcer who also was PLO's deputy chief for Sudan.

Even before this disclosure, Arab donors were becoming more and more disquieted over terrorism's course.

Originally Black September assumed the mission of hitting elsewhere in the world at Israelis and other persons considered to be enemies of the Palestinian cause—not only to reduce foreign support for Israel but to convince world leaders that they had to pay serious attention to Palestinian claims.

The Khartoum outbreak itself heightened worries of Arab rulers that terrorist savagery might be directed eventually against themselves.

At the time of the diplomatic kidnappings, Sudan's President Gaafar al-Numeiry was negotiating for U. S. economic aid. Accordingly, the assault was viewed as a warning to President Numeiry to call off closer ties with the Americans—a warning that could also apply to Egypt's President Anwar Sadat, who seeks similar help from the United States.

In addition, Saudi Arabia's King Faisal reportedly expressed outrage that the assault in Khartoum occurred at the Saudi Embassy—and that the Saudi Ambassador was one of the hostages.

One Beirut newspaper with close ties to the Saudis has reported that the King has ordered reinforcement of embassy guards worldwide, and is likely to reduce subsidies to Al Fatah.

Sudan's President not only has ordered the Palestine Liberation Organization to cease operations in Sudan but has promised "no leniency" to surrendering terrorists at their murder trial.

Under way is an inquiry to determine terrorist links—if any exist—to enemies of the Sudanese regime.

Such developments, President Nixon's advisers say, make it clear that the U. S. holds some strong cards in its approaching showdown with Arab terrorists—and that, meantime, Americans must learn to cope with the terrorist threat day by day.

and it includes four other Cabinet members as well as national-security adviser Henry A. Kissinger, presidential aide John Ehrlichman and heads of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Discussions have been held with some embassies in Washington to plan coordinated actions in case of attack.

American diplomats abroad are under orders to give high priority to intelligence on terrorist movements. A weekly intelligence report on terrorist groups is prepared for the committee.

Visa and immigration rules have been made more stringent.

For the time being, foreigners in transit to other countries cannot spend up to 10 days in the U. S. without a visa, as they did before.

More than 28,000 visa applications from persons unknown to U. S. diplomats have been screened. Four, including one from a known terrorist leader, have been denied. An alert against letter bombs has brought interception of six in U. S. post offices.

These and other precautions are aimed at terrorism from many sources, not only abroad but within the U. S. itself where revolutionaries of both black and white races are a worry.

Eye on Ireland. U. S. officials are keeping a close watch on the Irish Republican Army's "Provisional" wing, which has been raising money and purchasing weapons in this country in its fight to unify Ireland. British police blame this group for the explosion of two huge bombs March 8 outside London's Old Bailey courthouse and Government offices in Whitehall, injuring scores of persons.

Still, President Nixon's antiterror strategy is likely to center for some time to come on Black September—whose worries appear to be growing at an even faster pace than U. S. concerns.

This organization was named for an ill-fated attempt of Palestinian commandos to overthrow Jordan's King Hussein in September, 1970, because he ousted them from his country after a pitched battle.

Black September. At first, Black September was seen as independent of political and guerrilla agencies of Palestinian exiles, which get much support from Arab nations.

This aid consists of cash subsidies from oil-rich nations—Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Libya. The latter also makes training bases available to guerrillas, while Syria and Lebanon have given sanctuary to guerrillas raiding Israel.

Ostensibly, financial aid was largely for welfare, propaganda and guerrilla